

Listing of Claims:

1 – 14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method comprising:

inputting information into a handheld device from an indiciu ~~indicia~~ on an open shelving system, said information identifying an item stocked on ~~to be restocked to~~ said open shelving system;

inputting a current quantity of said item ~~the items to be restocked~~ to the handheld device ~~corresponding to the input information;~~

transferring the information and current quantity from the handheld device;

automatically comparing the current quantity to a par level for said item ~~of the items to be restocked~~; and

generating a restocking package in response to said automatic comparing when said current quantity is less than said par level.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the indiciu ~~indicia~~ is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and quantity are downloaded.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and quantity over a wireless link.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 additionally comprising selecting information identifying ~~an~~ a second item not represented by an indiciu ~~indicia~~ on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of said second ~~the~~ item to be stocked in the open shelving unit.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the par level is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.

23. (currently amended) A method of restocking an open shelving system of the type having a plurality of bins, each of said bins having a unique indiciu ~~indicia~~ associated therewith, said method comprising:

inputting information into a handheld device from said indicium ~~indicia~~ associated with each bin ~~for which restocking is desired, said information identifying an item stored therein to be restocked;~~

inputting a current quantity of each of the items ~~to be restocked~~ to the handheld device corresponding to the input information;

transferring the information and the current quantity of each of the items from the handheld device;

automatically comparing the current quantity of each of the items to a par level for each item ~~of the items to be restocked; and~~

generating a restocking package for each item, in response to said automatic comparing, when the current quantity of such item is less than its respective par level.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the indiciu ~~indicia~~ is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and the current quantity of each of the items are downloaded.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and the current quantity of each of the items over a wireless link.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 additionally comprising selecting information identifying an additional item not represented by an indiciu ~~indicia~~ on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of said additional ~~the~~ item to be stocked in the open shelving unit.

29. (previously present) The method of claim 23 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the par level of each of the items is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.